

Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin

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Celebrating The Arboretum Foundation's
65 Years of Service to the
Washington Park Arboretum

Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin

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Washington Park, circa 1908



Photo by Joe Oyer
courtesy of
Rosina McIvor

Rosina Uttendorfer and her doll were two of the first picnickers in Washington Park, site of the future Arboretum. Years later, in the 1980s and '90s, Rosina frequently visited the Arboretum with her daughter and namesake, longtime Arboretum Foundation volunteer Rosina McIvor.

Rosina McIvor is chair of Unit 30, the Southwest Ramblers, one of the Foundation's specialty groups designed for enrichment and learning. In addition, Rosina is a key member of the annual Greens Galore team.

This issue celebrates 65 years of The Arboretum Foundation and the people, such as Rosina McIvor, who volunteer and enjoy the Arboretum.

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The Arboretum Foundation is a nonprofit organization that was chartered to further Washington Park Arboretum (WPA) development, projects, and programs through volunteer service and fund raising. Its mission is to ensure stewardship for the Washington Park Arboretum, a Pacific Northwest treasure, and to provide horticultural leadership for the region. This stewardship requires effective leadership, stable funding, and broad public support.

WPA is administered cooperatively between the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH), the City of Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, and The Arboretum Foundation. The programs and plant collections are a responsibility of CUH.

WPA is a living plant museum emphasizing trees and shrubs hardy in the maritime Pacific Northwest. Plant collections are selected and arranged to display their beauty and function in urban landscapes, to demonstrate their natural ecology and diversity, and to conserve important species and cultivated varieties for the future. The Arboretum serves the public, students at all levels, naturalists, gardeners, and nursery and landscape professionals with its collections, educational programs, interpretation, and recreational opportunities.

From the Arboretum Foundation President **The Arboretum Foundation at 65 Years**

It is both a pleasurable and a daunting task to be president of The Arboretum Foundation during the year 2000 celebration of 65 years. The pleasure certainly comes from working with and learning from the staff and volunteers, who are so dedicated, talented, and energetic that it is just plain fun.

The daunting part comes from two main factors. First of all, consider 65 years. Not many of the businesses and organizations that existed in 1935 still endure today. We *do* exist, however, and the Arboretum is doing well. We must keep intact that legacy of volunteerism, stewardship, and hard work that has allowed us to succeed. The second factor is the necessity to develop a comprehensive, achievable plan for the future. The Arboretum's master plan is designed to fulfill the rich potentials for education, conservation, and recreation.

I can report to you that the partnership that is dedicated to the Arboretum—the City of Seattle, the University of Washington, and The Arboretum Foundation—is working better than ever before. Our staff is extremely well qualified and professional. The volunteers, who are and always will be the essential core of the Arboretum, are as numerous, vigorous, and as committed as ever.

Also, the Foundation is financially sound (see page 19), thanks to our many loyal members and donors. Our financial condition allows us to step briskly into the new millennium with confidence, though in order to achieve our potential, both the membership and donor base must expand significantly.

The Foundation's mission "to ensure stewardship for the Washington Park Arboretum" has guided us well for 65 years and is still appropriate for our future.

So, I must say it is really a wonderful experience to be an Arboretum volunteer. This place has grown well and achieved much, and the potential for the next 65 years is exciting. Come join, volunteer, contribute, visit, and be an active part of a Pacific Northwest treasure.

—Dave Hervey, President

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Jan Silber

Nature & the Arboretum Visitor

BY KATHY WOLF



Joy Spurr

Why do you visit WPA? Do others share your interests and reasons?

Seattle's public greenspaces are increasingly called upon to serve the needs of growing numbers of people who turn to nature for recreational and educational experiences. Early in the history of urban greenspace planning, Frederick Law Olmsted strived to create healing settings to counteract the challenges of urban life—the strain of poor working conditions and debilitating effects of congested living and working environments. His associates later designed Washington Park Arboretum (WPA). Though urban conditions have improved for most residents, the experience of nature in cities is no less valuable.

The mission of any arboretum, such as WPA, is to develop a planned program of science-based plant collections, research, and education. Yet, in addition, people have numerous responses, cognitions, and benefits that are outcomes of passive experiences of nature. Research in environmental psychology and related fields offers insight into the dynamics of human interaction with trees and greenspace.

For instance, recent studies at other arboreta and public gardens suggest how important the experience of nature can be for many people. Visitors to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and New York Botanical Garden reported, in a survey, their three most important reasons for visiting the gardens—relaxation, stress reduction, and inspiration. In addition, the most enjoyed features were trees, flowers, wooded areas, and ponds. Users can benefit psychologically from enjoying a variety of plant displays in urban gardens (Sullivan Bennett and Swasey, 1996).

A series of studies at Morton Arboretum revealed that people develop profound emotional ties to trees and forests. Social scientists concur that trees and vegetation can have a healing or beneficial, relaxing effect on their visitors (Dwyer, Schroeder, and Gobster 1994).

Photos

TOP: Artists take advantage of early spring color near Azalea Way.

BOTTOM: During a nature hike led by Len Kashmer, a teacher at Franklin High, his students examine a *Mahonia* 'Arthur Menzies' in the Joseph Witt Winter Garden.

Psychological research helps us understand the depth of Olmsted's intuitions. We have learned about the healthful influences of nature in terms of human physiology, cognition, and emotion. Certain human responses to nature appear to be universal; they are displayed by people of different ages and life-styles, in different cultures and countries. In the following sections are highlights from research and theory about the relationship of people and nature.

How the Body Reacts to Nature

We have long known that active movement in natural settings, such as walking in WPA or gardening at home, can tone and condition our bodies. But researchers have taken this a step further by discovering that even *looking* at natural views benefits physical well-being.

For over two decades, environmental psychologist Roger Ulrich has studied the effect that views of natural settings have on human physiological stress. In an early study, Ulrich determined that post-surgery convalescence was aided when patients had views of nature. He compared the recovery of patients who had views of brick walls with like patients who could view trees from their windows. Those with window views of trees recovered faster, had fewer complications, and required fewer analgesics during recovery.

In studies where participants view stressful situations and then view scenes of natural or built settings, it has been repeatedly found that their passive experiences of nature diminish stress response. When people are able to see natural scenes, their physiological indicators—heart-beat, blood pressure, and brain-wave patterns—reveal faster stress recovery.

Recent studies showed that people's response to traffic stress was based on the participants' immediate experience prior to such stress. That is, those study subjects whose immediate prior experience to the stress was a natural setting showed lower levels of stress response during the challenging experience. Thus, people can—and may—pursue contact with nature to both ease feelings of stress and to prepare for situations in which they anticipate uncomfortable experiences.

How Nature Restores the Mind

Humans actively receive information from their surroundings. They cognitively process sensory input, both consciously and subconsciously. Information processing is a demanding task.

Rachel and Stephen Kaplan (1989) have described the causes and consequences of mental fatigue in our daily lives. Increasingly, in work and in everyday functions, we are called upon to focus our attention on very specific projects. We must maintain attention to a task in the face of numerous distractions and interruptions. Over time, this tremendous need for concentration can result in what is known as directed attention fatigue. The symptoms are irritability, temper flare-ups, and an inability to concentrate on work.

Encounters with nature are a potential antidote to directed attention fatigue, because nature provides opportunities for involuntary attention. Elements of nature have a direct, exciting quality that engages our attention without effort. Moving water, dramatic skies, and the motion of trees in wind are fascinating natural phenomena that attract us, while providing cognitive respite and recharge.

Researchers have analyzed environments that tend to provide such a recharge. The literature on recreation tends to equate escape or withdrawal with the idea of a restorative experience; however, time spent away in pristine wilderness is but one instance that provides restorative benefit. A sense of being away can be designed into parks and gardens within the urban fabric.

Restorative settings are not necessarily large land parcels; rather, they entail elements and features that vary from our usual experiences and provide interest—distinctive plants, sculpture, and fascinating interpretive materials.

Places with an element of mystery—the subtle promise of additional learning or discovery if one enters—are particularly appealing. They satisfy two fundamental human needs—understanding and exploration. In any human environment—be it a park, the Internet, or a shopping mall—we strive to find the balance between making sense and learning something new within it.

If the features of a place are readily understood and offer no new information, we find it boring. On the other hand, if an environment is chaotic, difficult to understand, and offers more information than we can cognitively sort and order, we experience frustration and anxiety.

To summarize, urban restorative settings are places of outdoor nature that have several key attributes. The first is the perception of being away. This can be achieved in modestly sized park settings, using natural features that both help us understand the setting and promise new information.

Second, while the extent of the restorative space is important, it need not be a large space. For example, the Japanese garden-design principle of *shakkei*—borrowed scenery—describes how to integrate the visual features of adjacent properties and landscapes into the viewer's experiences, expanding the perceived extent of a space.

Finally, compatibility is important. Restorative places do not require much effort to move about them, and they fulfill people's intentions for action. Compatible places provide ample conditions to participate in various nature-based roles, such as wildlife and people watching, picnicking, and guided hiking.

WPA, both in its current condition and as proposed in its master plan, contains many restorative settings. The Winter and Japanese Gardens, for instance, are distinct settings that offer a sense of being away and can be explored, yet are generally understood and compatible for a variety of users. Any greenspace can be designed to integrate a formal program of educational and interpretive activities with intentional landscape characteristics that promote cognitive well-being.

Emotion: Connected to Place

We may not even be conscious of our physiological and cognitive responses to views of trees and nature. Nonetheless, such responses can be at the root of our moods, feelings, and emotions. On one level, the latent influence of nature may be felt wherever we encounter urban nature. At another level, repeated visits to a favorite natural setting, such as the Arboretum, can initiate strong feelings of place attachment.

Our society tends to overlook the significance of place in our self-identity and well-being. An individual's psyche is traditionally defined in terms of the interpersonal, social relationships of our past, present, and future. Yet, Harold Proshansky, an environmental psychologist, noted that our subjective sense of self is defined and expressed not only by an individual's relationship to other people, but also by his or her relationships to the various physical settings that define and structure day-to-day life. He observes that, through personal attachment to specific places, a person acquires a sense of belonging and purpose that gives meaning to his or her life. While the home is the "central reference point of human existence," other places can take on deep significance (Proshansky, Fabian, and Kaminoff 1983).

Our attachments to places are created through many different kinds of experiences. Sounds, odors, patterns of light, and the general mood of a forested setting provide memorable moments for many people. The dynamic changes of forests—from morning to evening, through the seasons and year to year—shape distinctive, sometimes unpredictable, experiences over multiple visits. For example, research shows that smells tend to trigger responses that are more emotional and cognitive than visual stimuli, and smells also tend to be remembered more vividly than the visual characteristics of a place. While such experiences are rarely managed or planned for a forest environment, these conditions may most influence our relationship with a managed environment, such as an arboretum.

Over time, a bonding relationship can emerge between a person and an outdoor environment. Repeated encounters lead to a familiarity that, at the very least, shapes a person's expectations of the functions of the setting. In some instances, a beloved place comes to shape the personal identity of a person or community.

The attachment to place has consequences for greenspace planners. Some features within an arboretum are beloved or cherished, and patrons will take a special interest in them. Any change to a popular feature would receive extra attention. In addition, place attachment plays a role in the relationship of an arboretum to surrounding communities. The personal significance of the site to neighbors differs from the connections that long-distance visitors experience.

Evaluating Nature's Benefits

As landscape designer Olmsted recognized, nature in cities may be essential for public health and well-being. In a general sense, few would deny the premise. People resonate to greenspace; indeed, the biophilia hypothesis suggests that an innate association of people and greenspace may be a vestige of our evolutionary history (Kellert and Wilson 1993). But how might this phenomenon be acknowledged in the design and planning of open spaces?

Why *do* visitors come to the Washington Park Arboretum? Though we can surmise a great deal about visitors' actions, based on the results of prior research, an on-site evaluation can reveal insightful details about user patterns and interests in the Arboretum.

For example, this author and students of a

University of Washington landscape architecture studio course conducted a pilot study for a visitors survey at the Arboretum, in summer 1996. Respondents were interviewed on weekdays, and many were repeat visitors. The 15 people reported their reasons for visits, which included daily walks for light exercise, brainstorming breaks while working, a place away on business trips to Seattle, and quality time with family.

The primary function of an arboretum is to present and interpret collections of plant taxonomic groups and biogeographic displays. Though many users recognize this mandate, others are drawn to a tree place for the complex array of forest experiences it offers. The challenge is to provide arboretum settings that are personally restorative as well as educational.

The relationship of trees to people is a powerful one, according to social science research and our own experiences. Wooded settings can touch a person to the very core—mentally, physiologically, and emotionally—triggering deeply held values for trees and extensive health benefits.

Kathleen L. Wolf is assistant professor at the Center for Urban Horticulture. View the web site containing information on Human Dimensions of Urban Forests: www.cfr.washington.edu/enviro-mind. Reach Dr. Wolf at: kwolf@u.washington.edu

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WPA Grows Its Potential

BY JAN PIRZIO-BIROLI

PHOTOS BY JOY SPURR

During the early years of Washington Park Arboretum's existence, from the mid-1930s through World War II, Arboretum staff and supporters concentrated on acquiring plant material and creating a garden out of second-growth forest.

From the beginning, the Arboretum's contributions to the horticultural world were impressive. So were the many contributions of The Arboretum Foundation, whose members helped shape the grounds, supported the operation, and sometimes donated many unusual plants to the fledgling collections.

The history of enthusiastic support resulted in early success. This influenced the Arboretum's director, Brian Mulligan, who was appointed in 1947, and led him to publish his vision of the Arboretum's purposes. By autumn 1949, Mulligan's philosophy of the Arboretum's future potential was written, based on its remarkable evolution to that time.

Who in the Arboretum?



Long-time Arboretum Foundation volunteer Jan Pirzio-Birol is retired from the Center for Urban Horticulture. Says Jan, former editor of the *Bulletin*, "I will never forget my introduction to The Arboretum Foundation's plant sale, in the mid-1950s, when I was a beginning gardener. My boss phoned from the sale to tell me 'You have to get down here'. When I arrived, he pulled from under a table a stick wrapped in tinfoil, priced 50 cents, and explained, 'The ladies say that this is one we have to have'. It was a small specimen of *Enkianthus*, which remains in my garden today."

Brian Mulligan wrote that Washington Park Arboretum had the potential to:

1. serve as a large-scale test garden of trees and shrubs for its own and similar climates;
2. disperse information by various means both to groups and individuals who require it;
3. by good example and practice, and the introduction of new or better plants, improve the standard of gardening both locally or elsewhere; and
4. bring to its citizens and visitors not only a living museum for study and appreciation, but also a place of mental and physical relaxation in natural and peaceful surroundings.

Mulligan's predecessor, John Hanley, Mulligan himself, and his assistant director, Joseph Witt, accomplished these goals in cooperation with The Arboretum Foundation. The manner in which it was done is history. A brief summary of their contributions up to the 1980s is presented below.

Plant Testing & Introduction

Plant testing and introduction have always been one of the Arboretum's prime functions. Species and hybrids from around the world that are rare, desirable, or both have been acquired through various sources, tested, and made available to nurseries and other public gardens. A typical example is *Rehderodendron macrocarpum*, a rare Chinese species whose seed was collected for the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, which shared it with us. Though it was not hardy in Boston, our specimens thrived and became an important seed source for other institutions.

Hybridization and the selection of especially desirable specimens for propagation have been another aspect of plant introduction. *Garrya x issaquahensis* is an example of the named hybrids and cultivars representative of the Arboretum's work in this field. It was so named because seeds of the original cross were supplied to the Arboretum for distribution by Mrs. Pat Ballard, whose home was on the Pine Lake Plateau in Issaquah.

Often special collections of plants or scions have been sent upon request to institutions around the world, ranging from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other botanical gardens in the USA to as far away as Russia.

In 1939, the Arboretum joined the International Seed Exchange, an organization that enables public institutions to distribute seeds from cultivated plants and those collected in the wild.



That first year, the Arboretum sent 1500 packets of seed to 109 institutions. A large portion of this material came from a collecting trip led by University of Washington (UW) botany professor C. Leo Hitchcock to the Siskiyou Mountains of Oregon, an area famous for its rare plants.

Over the years, staff members and associates of the Arboretum have made seed collecting an important part of their vacations into natural habitats since wild-collected material is always in demand. However, distribution of seed from choice species in the Arboretum's collections has also been important. Packaging and mailing of seeds were, for many years, the responsibility of the Foundation's Unit 25. The seed exchange, involving many volunteers, continues to the present.

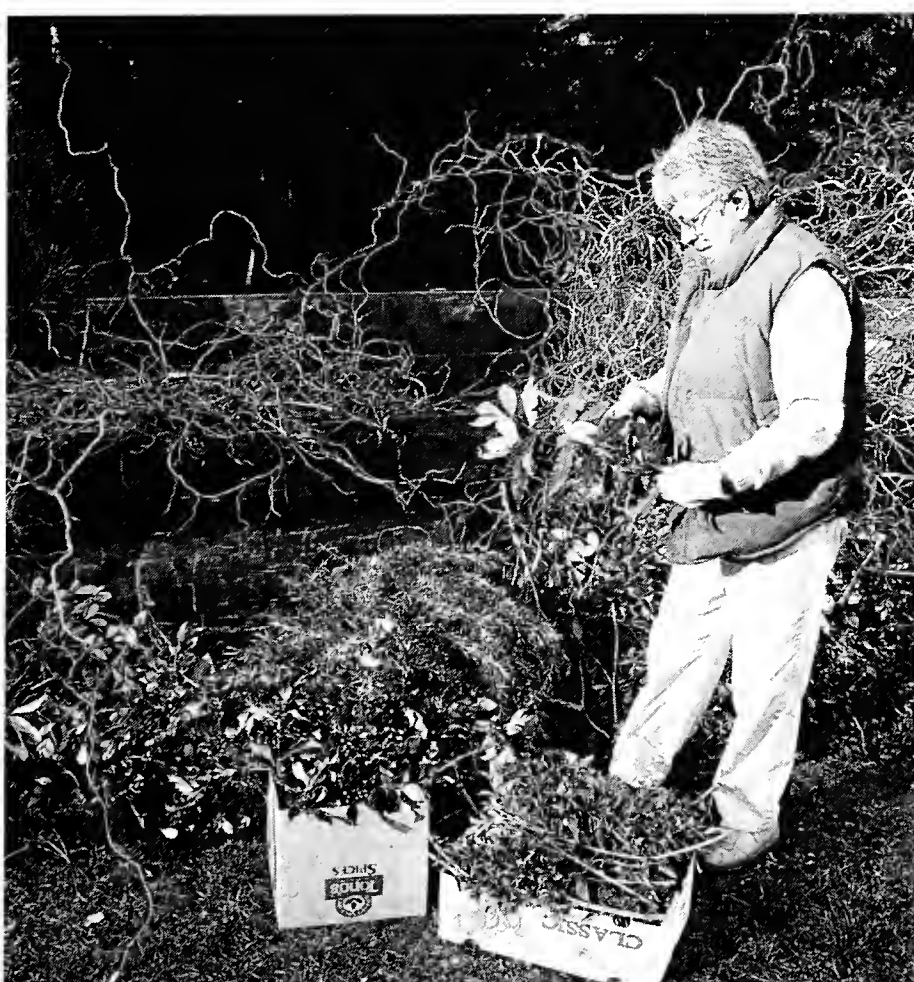
Meeting the Demand for Information

Another important, continuing contribution by the Arboretum is the dispersal of plant information. By 1937, telephone requests for information were flooding in. Arboretum tours were given upon request. Weekly radio broadcasts were being offered.

Brian Mulligan later reported: "In 1950, 791 inquiries were answered by phone, 47 organized parties visited and were shown 'round the Arboretum, and 24 lectures were given."

Publications. For many years, the *Arboretum Bulletin*, first published in December 1936,

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Photos

TOP: On May 8, 1985, Brian Mulligan, former director of the Arboretum, and wife Margaret, also very active in the Arboretum, help break ground for the Graham Visitors Center.

MIDDLE: Ann O'Mera and John McDonnell, volunteers in the Pat Calvert Greenhouse, at a plant sale. The Greenhouse also is open for sales each Tuesday, 10am—noon.

BOTTOM: Rita Rae Cloney volunteers for The Arboretum Foundation's annual Greens Galore. Here she supervises sales of rosemary, holly, and lavender for wreath-making.

served as a primary source of plant information for Foundation members, but also for other readers and plant institutions in the USA and abroad.

Contributors included experts from around the world as well as UW professors, nurserymen, and many knowledgeable gardeners. For example, from the UW College of Forest Resources, Professor Frank Brockman's series of articles on native trees extended from Douglas-fir (Spring 1952) to red alder (Summer 1959). Famous local gardeners Else Frye, Frances Roberson, and Pat Ballard were among the authors of descriptions that were frequently very detailed as well as lists of plant species and genera. Brian Mulligan and Joe Witt were regular contributors, not only in Arboretum reports but also by describing the important plants in the collections and gardens they visited as Arboretum representatives.

The diversity of the *Bulletin's* authors is exemplified by the Fall 1959 issue. In addition to articles by local gardeners and staff members, it contained pieces on their respective botanical gardens by Donald Wyman of the Arnold Arboretum and Henry Teuscher of the Montreal Botanical Garden. W.H. Hodge of Longwood Gardens wrote on Longwood's cooperation with the USDA. Theo Scheffer of the USDA wrote on field studies of Garry oak in Washington. Henry Skinner, of the US National Arboretum, wrote about azaleas native in eastern America. In addition, the *Bulletin* reprinted a lecture on the importance of trees in the urban landscape by Garrett Eckbo, a famous urban designer.

Lectures & classes. The public came to lectures and courses that were developed for them by an education committee consisting of Arboretum and College of Forest Resources staff and faculty, with representatives from The Arboretum Foundation.

In 1939, one of the first courses was offered on ornamental plants. It was presented jointly by Mr. Hanley and Dr. Hitchcock, who emphasized plant identification, methods of propagation, and rhododendron hybridizing. Mrs. Pat Ballard, well-known in Washington horticultural circles, offered her botanical lecture series to Foundation members until her death in 1964.

Arboretum staff members also taught propagation (cuttings, seed germination, and hybridization) in the Arboretum greenhouse. In fact, instruction on how to propagate woody plants by cuttings remained such a popular topic that the Foundation Unit Council created the

Patricia Calvert Greenhouse in 1959. There, over the years, it has been a valuable learning tool as well as a means of distributing small specimens of rare plants from the Arboretum collections and from members' gardens. Classes and "cutting parties" were offered. Joy Spurr's booklet, *Cuttings through the Year*, was first published in connection with the work of greenhouse volunteers and continues to be useful in updated editions.

Teaching and research. Over the years, the Arboretum grounds have been used for classes and research by UW departments as well as other institutions. For example, in the 1950s the Department of Zoology used the Arboretum ponds for instruction and research on the living organisms they contained. For many years Dr. Hitchcock, and later Professor Arthur R. Kruckeberg, gave plant identification classes for botany students on the Arboretum grounds. Other teachers followed suit.

Tours. Tours of Arboretum collections have always been an important aspect of plant education. When Mulligan and Witt became overburdened with too many requests, they arranged with the Foundation's Unit Council to create a guide program, which evolved into four categories: (1) native plants, mainly for children, (2) Foster Island, (3) Arboretum tours in general, and (4) the Japanese Garden. Guide training not only prepared volunteer guides for work in the field but at the same time became for them a source of personal enrichment.

For the study of native plants, Joe Witt created a native plant walk, which started with the three giant native conifer species across from the (then) Arboretum offices. From there it led south toward the Winter Garden and then looped back to the offices. Even people who follow that route today can identify, among others, a ponderosa pine that was planted on the east side of the walk, and on the west side, apparently out of context for an arboretum, specimens of thimbleberry and other shrubby natives.

The tour of Foster Island was instructed by an extremely elderly former school teacher, Della Patch, who had an extraordinary sense of humor and related directly to children. She could lead three tours a day without faltering, and her ability to convey her expertise to other guides was superb.

For general tours of the collections, knowledgeable gardeners were sent out onto the grounds to become more familiar with the Arboretum, and this technique worked well. They

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enriched their knowledge of the plantings, specific plants, and special places, and then shared all of this with each other and the public.

In contrast, leading tours in the Japanese garden was very specific. The garden, conceived in 1937, finally opened its gates in June 1960. It has been important not only for an understanding of Japanese culture but also to demonstrate an exotic form of plant treatment and landscape design. The principles of Japanese garden design and Japanese traditions were taught by dedicated supporters of the garden.

Shows & sales. From the beginning, the Arboretum and the Foundation were active in sponsoring plant exhibits, often funded by the Foundation with plant materials contributed by the Arboretum. Probably the most important and long-lasting effort in this category was the annual Rhododendron Show, which was held for the first time in 1946, under a colorful tent at the head of Rhododendron Glen.

The first Arboretum Foundation plant sale was given for its members in 1947, but soon it became a public event. It continues as one of the major Seattle plant sales, often introducing the gardening public to new and unusual plants.

A Living Museum for Study, Appreciation, and Relaxation

The basic context of Brian Mulligan's fourth purpose for an arboretum goes almost without saying. Visitors are everywhere almost anytime. Some of them are walking for exercise, in what is for them a pleasant atmosphere. But most are there to see and enjoy the vegetation, the flowers in spring and summer, the fall color, and individual specimens or plant combinations, as well as to learn what can be valuable for them and their gardens.

Coming Up

WPA continued to fulfill its promise in the last 20 years of the 20th century. In a future issue of the *Bulletin*, read:

*"WPA Enters the Twenty-First Century:
What's New in the Living Museum?"*

Sixty-Five Years of Volunteers

Arboretum Foundation members explain why they volunteer.

BY NANCY DAVIDSON SHORT

In 1934, the City of Seattle and the University of Washington signed an agreement that reserved all of Washington Park as a botanical garden and arboretum. During that same year, The Arboretum Foundation was established as a separate membership organization whose funding and volunteers support Washington Park Arboretum. Within a year, nearly one thousand people had joined the Foundation. Now, as we celebrate this sixty-fifth anniversary, Arboretum Foundation membership is nearly three thousand strong.

What has this 200-acre garden park meant to our members? To find out, I talked to a number of them, both men and women. Some have been members for many years, others for only a year or two. Some are experts in one or another field of horticulture, yet most are gardeners in the process of learning.

I asked, "What have you learned from the Arboretum? Why is it important to you? Why did you join?" Here are their answers.

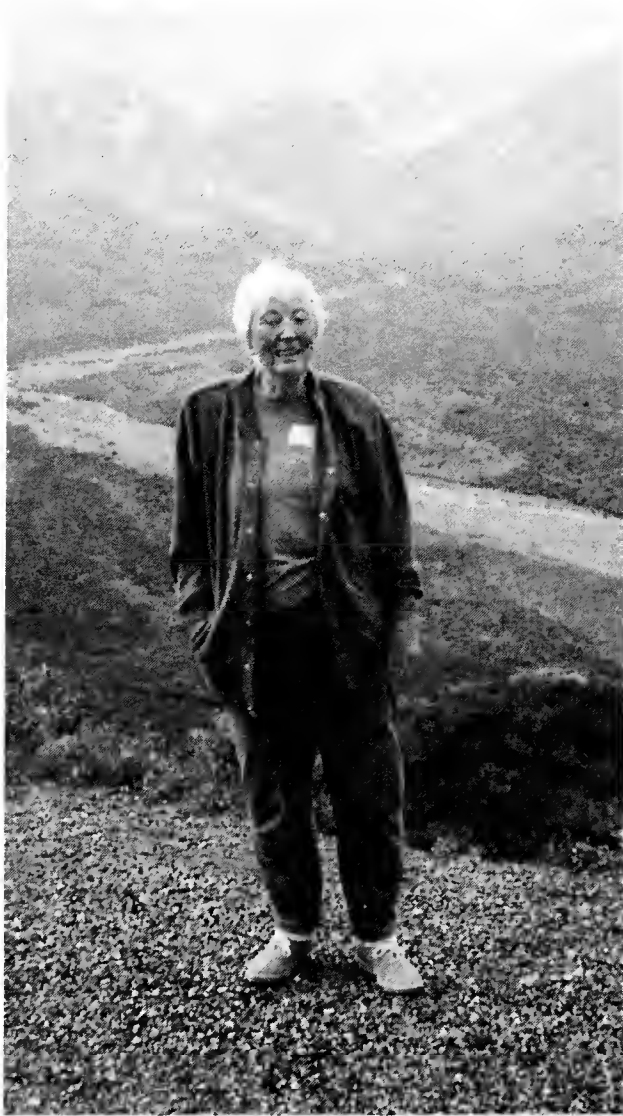


Photo by Randy Davidson

Who in the Arboretum?

Nancy Davidson Short joined The Arboretum Foundation right after World War II. Nancy is a former editor of *Sunset Magazine*. You enjoy her monthly column in *GroundWork* and the efforts of her volunteer activities. She is chair of the Foundation's local Garden Tours Committee and is on the committee for the Pacific Gardens Contest. Says Nancy:

"The Arboretum had a lot to do with my getting my job with *Sunset*. Milo Ryan, a friend and a professor in the then-School of Journalism at the University of Washington, was asked by Walter Doty, then editor of *Sunset*, to send in a monthly report on how the establishment of the Arboretum was faring. Milo was very busy and asked me if I would like to try doing the job. I did and then met Mr. Doty, who eventually hired me, for what turned out to be a 35-year-long career."

"I'd say I joined the Foundation in 1945 or 1946. I was already a member when Brian Mulligan arrived. I was an absolutely green gardener, and people I met, such as Pat Ballard, Dorothy Krauss and others, were wonderful about supplying me with good story material. Brian and Joe Witt were a great help, too."

Nancy Davidson Short can be reached at nancyshort@aol.com.

"The Arboretum determined the direction in which I gardened for all the years to come."—Ruth Ellerbeck

Ruth Ellerbeck joined The Arboretum Foundation as a beginning gardener in 1941. It was fun to talk to her, to hear her laugh, sense the pleasure in her voice as she remembered.

"We had wonderful garden classes going all the time, with very learned people to teach us. Pat Ballard was a special inspiration. We met once a week in a portable building in the Arboretum behind the office, and we all donated money to build a fireplace to have heat as the weather got cold." Then she paused and reflected. "The Arboretum determined the direction in which I gardened for all the years to come."

"As my knowledge grows, I find that the time I spend at the Arboretum has turned into both a teaching and a learning opportunity. "
—Dr. Ken Hollingsworth

Dr. Ken Hollingsworth is a comparatively new member. "Frankly, I started out at the Arboretum for purely selfish reasons. I wanted to learn about the propagation and care of trees and shrubs, and I found out that the Pat Calvert Greenhouse offers that opportunity, which includes going out into the Arboretum with an instructor and taking cuttings to root," he said. "I was surprised to find out how much I enjoy working with knowledgeable volunteers. And now new people who come to the greenhouse to work with cuttings ask me questions. As my knowledge grows, I find that the time I spend at the Arboretum has turned into both a teaching and a learning opportunity. I enjoy feeling that I can contribute something to new Arboretum members."

"The Arboretum opened the whole plant world to me. It began with a free lecture I attended at the Visitors Center, on perennials."—Marian Raitz

Marian Raitz has been an Arboretum Foundation member for about 10 years, ever since she and her husband built their house in Bellevue and faced a wilderness of a yard. When I asked her what she had gotten from the Arboretum, she did not hesitate.

"The Arboretum opened the whole plant world to me. It began with a free lecture I attended at the Visitors Center, on perennials. After that, I discovered the Pat Calvert Greenhouse."

Today, Marian's two-acre-plus garden shows off a stunning collection of well-grown rare and unusual shrubs and trees. Included is an eye-popping March display of a bed of pink- and purple-flowered *Helleborus orientalis*, which she grew from seed. Marian and her husband are slowly turning a steep ravine and the bubbling stream they uncovered at its base, from a tangle of blackberries, brush, and bracken, into a stroll garden of Northwest natives and other plants that like our climate and acid soil.

"It is important for me to see and get to know mature specimens of trees and shrubs in the various collections, to observe their growth habits—their leaf color from spring to fall—and to be able to anticipate their size when planted in a residential garden.
—Keith Geller

Landscape architect Keith Geller lives close enough to the Arboretum to walk its trails often. He reminded me of the famous firm of landscape architects who designed the original layout for the Arboretum, the Olmsted Brothers of Boston. "It is important for me to see and get to know mature specimens of trees and shrubs in the various collections, to observe their growth habits—their leaf color from spring to fall—and to be able to anticipate their size when planted in a residential garden."

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"...the Arboretum was a hotbed of people with lots of gardening experience for spring bulbs: Rosina McIvor, Lee Clarke—the list goes on."
—Ann Lovejoy

When Ann Lovejoy was a young mother with small children and not much money, she found herself with an ever-increasing interest in learning about and growing ornamentals. She told me that the Arboretum offered an incomparable resource. "Arboretum plant sales were literally the only source of rare and unusual plants. And the Arboretum volunteers who ran the sales were incredible experts. In fact, the Arboretum was a hotbed of people with lots of gardening experience for spring bulbs: Rosina McIvor, Lee Clarke—the list goes on." From being an eager and enthusiastic beginner, Ann has become an expert herself, a nationally known garden writer and newspaper columnist, and an extremely popular lecturer.

"My most memorable experience at the Arboretum was meeting people, making great friends, and learning from them."—Frances Roberson

Frances Roberson has been an Arboretum enthusiast since its inception. Now in her nineties, she says, "My most memorable experience at the Arboretum was meeting people, making great friends, and learning from them."

I remember gathering seeds of the various *Sorbus* (mountain ash) varieties with her a few years ago. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and like most gardeners, she has her own personal wisdom to divulge. She loaned me a small hand-held magnifying glass so I could see and make note of what *Sorbus* fruits really look like. I rarely go into my own garden without that glass in my pocket, and promised recently to return it.

"You are just the kind of person we want in our Arboretum Unit. Will you come as my guest to the next meeting?"—As said to Ilga Jansons

Ilga Jansons is a new Arboretum Foundation member, completely engrossed in developing a six-acre garden near Kenmore. Ilga is an artist, a graphics designer, and an ex-Microsoft employee. A comparative newcomer to Seattle and to gardening, she has dived in head first, studying plant material, designing special gardens, building garden structures, and experimenting with everything from alpine plants to magnolias. When I asked her how she happened to join, her answer surprised me.

"Why did I join the Arboretum? Well, it was kind of by chance. I was plant shopping in the Fred Meyer nursery shop one day, and a pleasant looking woman asked me a question about a perennial we were both looking at. We started chatting, and in a few minutes she said, 'You are just the kind of person we want in our Arboretum Unit. Will you come as my guest to the next meeting?' So I gave her my name and telephone number. At home I thought, 'I will never hear from her again', but in two days she called to invite me to a luncheon meeting at Margaret Mulligan's house. The people I met were warm and welcoming and keenly interested in gardening. I felt privileged to be asked to join them."

"The Arboretum's greatest value to me has been the people I've met, men and women with interests similar to mine."
—Phil Wood

Phil Wood, garden designer and landscape architect, is a Seattle native. His Wallingford garden reveals him as a compulsive plant collector. His backyard feels like an acre in the country. "The Arboretum's greatest value to me has been the people I've met, men and women with interests similar to mine. We recognize no distinction of age or wealth or gender. I learn from other volunteers, from conversations, from meeting people I would never otherwise know."

So, the Arboretum is certainly more than a lovely setting for trees and shrubs. It is a people place that offers a great many ways to participate, to meet people with the same interests, and to become acquainted with trees and shrubs, not as nursery infants but as full grown specimens.

How Visitors View the Japanese Garden

BY CAROLANN FREID



The gates to the Japanese Garden are closed. It is a few minutes before ten in the morning, and there are several people eagerly waiting to get in. Peering through the gates, they try to get a glimpse of the splendor that awaits them.

It is evening, moments before the Garden is to close. Here and there visitors linger, hoping to stay just a few minutes longer, reluctant to relinquish the sense of serenity and peace the Garden provides.

The Japanese Garden has attracted thousands of visitors in its 40-year history. What is its spell? Why do people come? What do they imagine they will see when they arrive? And what impressions do they take with them when they leave?

Whether your interests are cultural, historical, horticultural, or a blending of these three, this Garden holds a special place in the minds of most visitors. We often see peaceful smiles and hear expressions of elation and delight. "What a treasure, what a beautiful and peaceful place," someone wrote in our visitors book. "It is wonderful. There are so many colors and textures and

continued, page 14



Photos

UPPER LEFT: Young visitors sometimes ask, "Who lives in the teahouse?"
Photo by Joy Spurr

LOWER LEFT: Students Dustin Cho, Spencer Easton, Eva Wingren, and Molly Molvik visited the Japanese Garden, while still students at North City Elementary School. Here they excitedly viewed koi from the moon-viewing platform. Photo by Jan Silver

surprises. It is simply wonderful. We don't have much time, but this was worth every minute," said a family of four visiting from Cedar Rapids.

I found myself becoming more and more curious about the impressions visitors had. I asked colleagues and acquaintances and sometimes even complete strangers if they had ever visited the Japanese Garden and what they thought of it. One such query brought an unusual response:

"For years I promised myself I would visit the Garden. I had heard so many lovely things about it. I intended to, but never quite got around to it. Then one day I did visit, and I felt both rewarded and disappointed. Rewarded because it filled me with such wonder and peace and disappointed because it had taken me so long to get there."

There was of course no limit to what children were willing to share about their experience in the Garden. The "Fish Food for Sale" sign usually signals where most children begin their visit. Children gravitate to the moon-viewing platform to watch the koi dart for food. Or stand on the zigzag bridge, to watch, on a bright day, turtles absorbing the heat from rocks off of Turtle Island. Their questions are many and their comments are very imaginative and creative. They want to know why the lanterns are not burning. Who takes care of the fish. Whether or not you can fish in the ponds. Where the boats are. Who takes care of the garden. And as one child asked, after hearing a croaking bull frog, "Where are the cows?"

The youngest of our visitors is often the one who sees the dragonflies, is curious about how the moss feels, and wonders if you can use the bark from the paperbark maple to write on. They want to climb the mountain, find the dragon shape in the waterfall, and run their fingers over the rock that looks like the skin of a dragon. They ask, "Who lives in the Tea House?" And when told that the Tea House is a special place to drink tea, they want to know who drinks the tea and what it tastes like. Even with all these questions, the magic of the koi swimming between the ponds and under the bridges still brings the highest praise and the greatest thrill.

As they scurry off to make their next discovery, not waiting for an answer to a particular question, you learn quickly that your answer cannot compete with the koi and the turtles. Sometimes I feel that watching a child in the Japanese Garden is like seeing the Garden for the very first time.

Our adult visitors have an equal number of unusual and probing questions. Wondering about the plants, the design of the Garden, and its history, their questions move into the realm of scientific and cultural inquiry. Often, they come just to sit and enjoy the peace, taking in the simple and complex charm the Garden offers to even the most sophisticated visitor.

The entry into the Garden is pulsated by sashaying bamboo, a lovely laceleaf maple tree, a stone basin, large rocks, and a dry riverbed. Most folks move with a steady gait along the path until they find a place to sit and rest and contemplate. Some visitors come to work and some to be inspired.

Who in the Arboretum?

Carolann Freid is chair of Arboretum Foundation Unit 86, Japanese Garden—Prentice Bloedel. She is a member of the Japanese Garden Advisory Council and is a board member of the Japanese Garden Society. Through spring 2000, visit Unit 86's Japanese-influenced Signature Bed in front of the Graham Visitors Center. Carolann, on break from her psychology practice, helps prepare the Signature Bed (below). Photo by Penny Lewis



An artist working on a painting of the stone moon bridge said, "I never expected to see so much beauty in one place." The Garden held the possibility of many paintings, and selecting one proved to be his greatest challenge. He wanted to know more about the bridge, the lantern nearby, and what the garden looked like in winter. All I could say was that every season, every day leaves its own indelible mark. The Garden changes, seems to remain the same but is never quite the way we last remembered it.

Onetime visitors, especially those from other states and countries, have to take in the Garden in just one visit. On a gray June day, I asked a family from California what they saw and what they will remember of their visit. They said, "We liked the garden; we liked the weeping willow and ferns best of all." Then, their ten-year-old chimed in. "We loved the lily pond and, of course, the koi." "Ah," I said, "The lily pads are out." And in a moment, my mind rushed back to the glorious wisteria that blooms in spring and how its fading blossoms may have been a signal to the lily pads to indeed come out, and further back still, to the first moments of spring when the banks of azaleas showered the Garden with dazzling color. I wanted to say something to them about the autumn leaves, when the maples are in their glory and stun the senses. But, I thought better of it. What they saw and experienced seemed to be enough, enough in those few moments to distill the pleasure that the Garden brings, even on a very wet, overcast day.

I know that each moment, each day, to each new set of eyes, the Garden brings an ever-changing beauty, never to be reexperienced in quite the same way. I read comments such as "Peace. I have never imagined such beautiful, beautiful peace" or, "We were transplanted to another world."

I know that what you experience will be unique and personal. It may be a subtle fragrance, a newly observed plant, or something that compels you to return and share the experience with others. Whatever you encounter, this very special place is not like any other garden you are likely to find in Seattle. It is the Japanese Garden.

Share your experiences of the Japanese garden in the comment book at the ticket booth.



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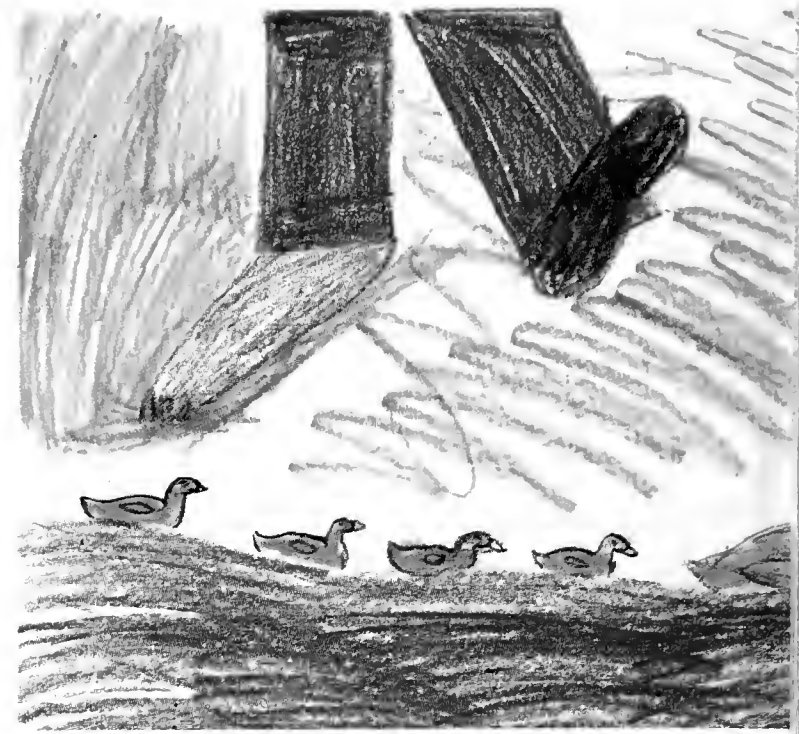
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The Arboretum

Under the trees,
Over the ground,
Plants of all kinds,
Can be found.
Reaching up to touch a cloud,
Some branches straight,
Some branches bowed.
Beautifully colored leaves in Autumn,
All should see the Arboretum.
—Student, West Mercer Elementary

Each year, Washington Park Arboretum tours reach over 4000 students enrolled in public, private, and home schools around Puget Sound. Volunteers arrive in all weather to lead students through the Arboretum. They vary in age and experience. Some are high school students on service learning projects or college students looking for environmental education experience. Others may be retirees who come to the Arboretum through an assortment of career doors. Since 1997 alone, they have contributed over 2500 hours. The art on these pages illustrated the thank-you notes that volunteers have received from satisfied students.



The Kids' Hands-On Tour

Children thank WPA guides

BY JUI



Praise for "Life Cycle of a Plant"

The "Spring Sprouts" tour, for grades 3–6, traces a plant's life cycle from flowers to fruits and ties in directly with the Seattle School District's third-grade science curriculum. Students and teachers, alike, enjoy collecting data, pollinating flowers, and planting seeds to take home.

Wrote one student: "I learned that a red seater [red cedar] could be made into a canoe [canoe]. I really liked it when we got to plant our own plants and take them home."—Third-Grader, Arrowhead Elementary

In autumn, children take part in "Fantastic Fall." They explore seed production and dispersal, photosynthesis, and the reason leaves change color.

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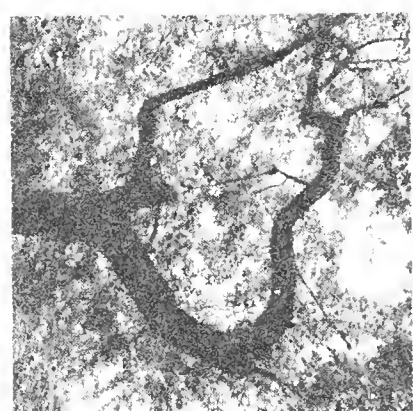
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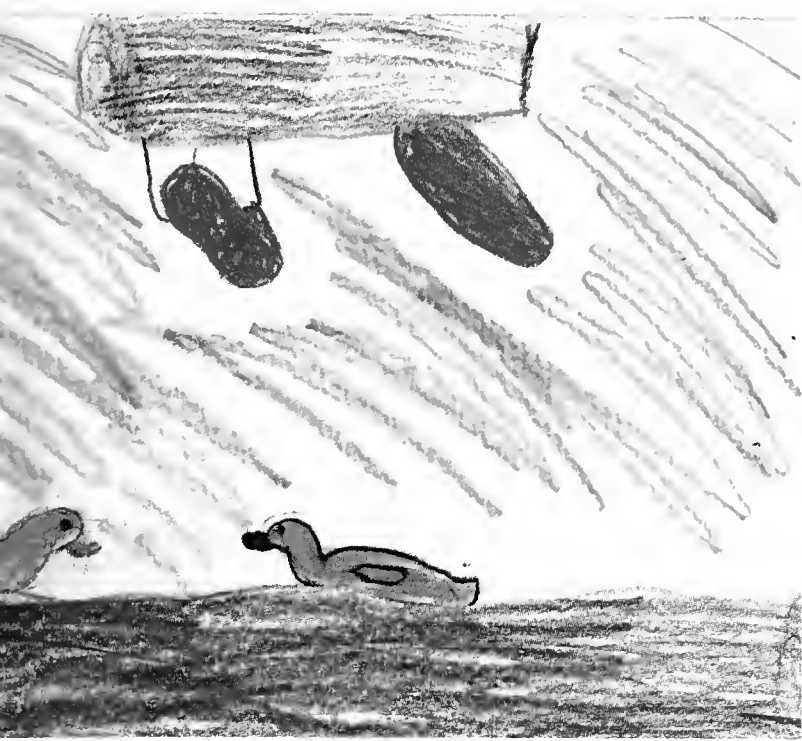
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*Join us in supporting the Washington Park Arboretum, a living museum,
a garden of discovery and an outdoor classroom.*





Perspective: In the Arboretum

for tours of nature and wildlife.

DEBARR



Wondered one attendee: “I learned seeds are baby plants...Does the Arboretum have all the trees in the world? I think trees and leaves are very cool.”—Third-Grader, Arrowhead Elementary

Children “Discover Plants”

Plants and people are more alike than children think. “Discover Plants” helps the younger students in K–2 to explore the Arboretum. There they observe the colors, shapes, sounds, and smells as they learn what plants (and people) need to grow and be healthy.

On “Plants and People of the Northwest”

What is a native plant? How have these plants been used in the past, and how are they

used now? Students in grades 3–8 learn to identify several Northwest native plants and discover their importance for then and now, in “Plants and People of the Northwest.”

A youngster appreciated new information and the leaders who imparted it: “I learned that cedar bark is soft and doesn’t give you splinters. Also I learned that you guys and girls make a great team. I like this field trip a lot.”—Third-Grader, Olympic View Elementary

Words on the “Wetland Ecology Walk”

Teachers bring their students year after year to participate in the Wetland Ecology Walk, for grades K–8. Using dip nets and magnifiers, students delve into the world of aquatic insects to gain the understanding that all living things are an important link in the food chain. Through scavenger hunts and metaphor games, students discover firsthand the importance of a wetland. Their praise is effusive:

“Thank you for letting us do hands-on learning!”—Sixth-Grader, Valley View Elementary

“I like the great blue heron the most. I’m glad you were willing to take the time to be a guide. I hope to bring my parents sometime.”—Third-Grader, West Mercer Elementary

“I also liked looking at the small organisms under the magnifying boxes. It was neat! The treasure hunt was fun! It made me think about things I normally don’t think about! Thanks again!”—Third-Grader, West Mercer Elementary

Julie DeBarr is the education coordinator for Washington Park Arboretum. Reach her at: 206.543.8801.

To volunteer for Saplings, call Elaine Anderson, at The Arboretum Foundation: 206.325.4510.

*Thank
you*



The Arboretum Foundation~

65 Years of Stewardship

"An arboretum for the Pacific Northwest is now assured."

These confident words opened the first issue of the *Arboretum Bulletin* in December 1936. The words marked the excitement and certainty of the Washington Park Arboretum's first director, Hugo Winkenwerder, who recognized the magnificent progress already evident after the Arboretum's first two years of development.

Winkenwerder was excited, to be sure, by the collaborative effort that gave the Arboretum its start and gathered the many resources needed to ensure the creation of an institution of scientific and civic significance. He was certain, no doubt, of the horticultural, recreational, and aesthetic potential of this uniquely situated park, its varied topography and rich growing environment. The Arboretum, Winkenwerder predicted, "will be a tremendous asset to the entire Pacific Northwest...as a place for intellectual recreation, aesthetic appreciation, research and scientific study."

He could not have been more accurate. In its 65 years, the Washington Park Arboretum has exceeded the expectations of its founders by cultivating one of the world's largest public collections of temperate woody plants, by being a unique outdoor classroom for thousands of school children and horticultural students, and as a treasured urban oasis for generations of Puget Sound-area residents.

For 65 years, volunteers and members of The Arboretum Foundation have successfully provided stewardship for the Arboretum in the form of fund raising, community relations, and hands-on activities, ranging from plant study groups to creating the Plant Donations Department. Arboretum horticultural programs, maintenance, and facilities, including the Graham Visitors Center, have been partially or fully funded by The Arboretum Foundation, through the generosity of Foundation donors.

Recently, public interest in the Arboretum—and voluntary participation in the Arboretum Foundation—have noticeably increased.



Photo by Regen Dennis

The communities around and within the Arboretum have shaped and supported the Arboretum master plan, a comprehensive guide for renewing and improving the Arboretum in the decades to come. In fact, over 4,000 people, over a period of five years, have participated in some way in the Arboretum plan's crafting.

This growing interest in the Arboretum's future is an opportunity for even more effective stewardship for this magnificent public garden. Our greatest challenges—expanding and maintaining funding sources in an increasingly competitive world and developing membership and public programs relevant and accessible to today's busy people—cannot be met unless dedicated volunteers continue to provide insight, leadership and countless hours of hard work. (Fortunately, we all manage to have some fun and appreciate the outstanding beauty of the Arboretum, even as we work.)

Mr. Winkenwerder probably could not have imagined the complex, fast-paced, and thriving urban environment in which the Washington Park Arboretum operates today. But he and so many others recognized the essential role the Arboretum would play in the Pacific Northwest, in the decades to come.

Winkenwerder, as I, would also heartily thank and congratulate Arboretum Foundation members and volunteers for 65 years of dedicated stewardship and invite you all to continue to expand the legacy of community involvement in this Northwest treasure, the Washington Park Arboretum.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Deborah Andrews". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Deborah Andrews, Executive Director,
The Arboretum Foundation

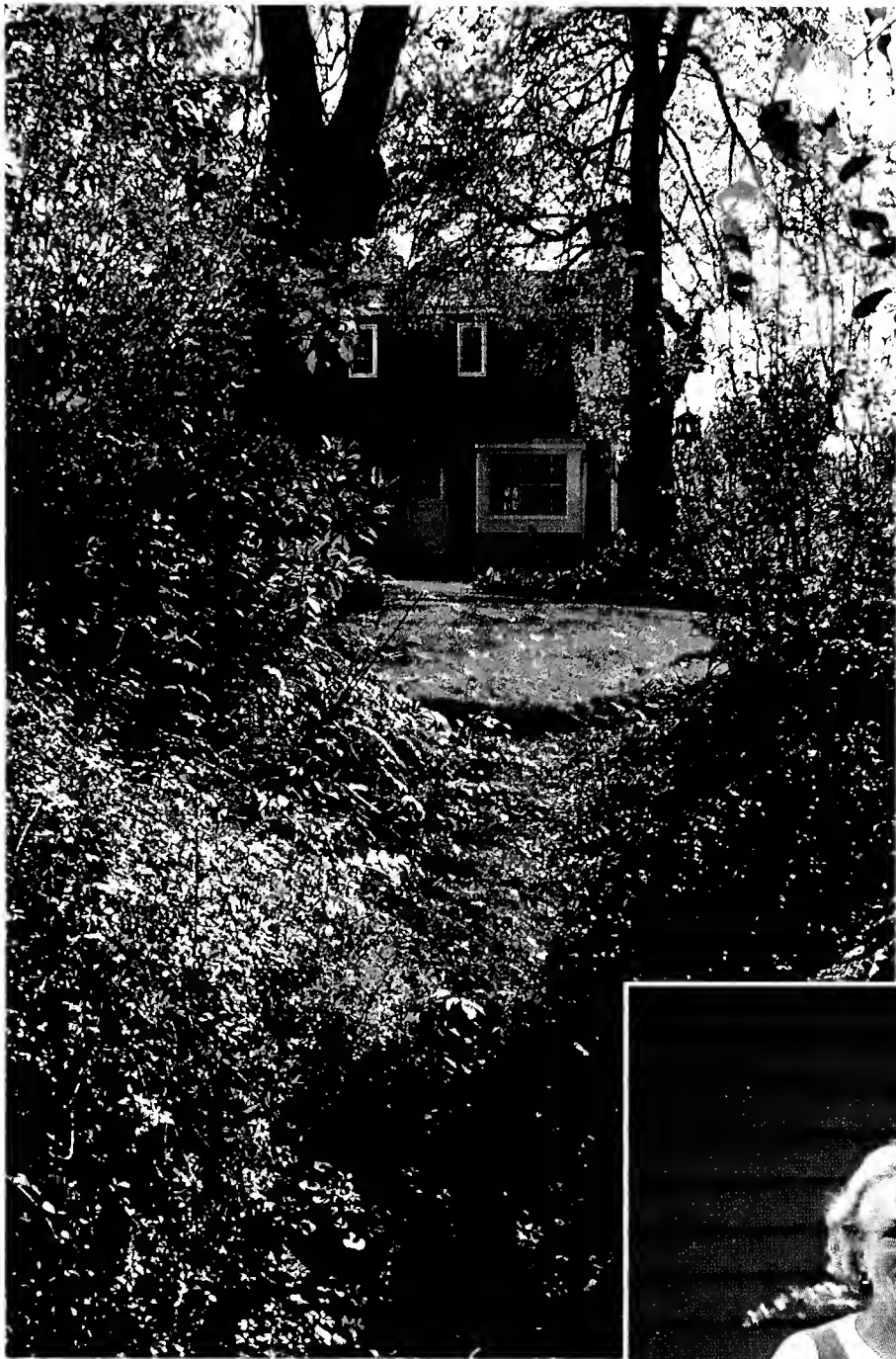
The Arboretum Foundation Balance Sheet
For the fiscal years ending June 30, 1999 and June 30, 1998

	1998-1999	1997-1998
Current Assets		
Cash	\$204,221	\$174,789
Short-term investments	644,249	493,634
Receivables	2,663	27,579
Prepaid expenses and deposits	7,544	7,222
Inventory	21,097	19,906
Total current assets	<u>\$879,774</u>	<u>\$723,130</u>
 Long-term investments	 379,417	 485,418
Land	7,015	7,015
Property and equipment	35,991	47,941
	<u>\$1,302,197</u>	<u>\$1,263,504</u>
 Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	38,384	34,646
Total current liabilities	<u>\$ 38,384</u>	<u>\$34,646</u>
 New Assets		
Unrestricted	816,513	744,506
Temporarily restricted	307,063	350,410
Permanently restricted	140,237	133,942
Total net assets	<u>\$1,263,813</u>	<u>\$1,228,858</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u>\$1,302,197</u>	 <u>\$1,263,504</u>

**The Arboretum Foundation
65th Anniversary**

**As we celebrate 65 years of stewardship
of the Washington Park Arboretum,
we thank the many volunteers and
members who made it possible. We look
forward to your continued participation in
the years to come. Thank you for your
interest, dedication, and effort in support of
a Northwest treasure—
the Washington Park Arboretum.**

2300 Arboretum Drive East, Seattle WA 98112
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The Arboretum Foundation Member Who Went Wild

A PHOTO STORY BY JOAN HOCKADAY

On an Arboretum Foundation garden tour in 1999, Jean Milanovich opened her award-winning wildlife sanctuary, composed of mature specimens valuable to birds, bees, fish, and butterflies. The plants were purchased 20 years ago as starters from Foundation plant sales.

Photos

UPPER LEFT: View from creek toward house, early autumn. Shrubbery along the path includes winter jasmine, serviceberry, honeysuckle, red-osier dogwood, epimedium, and deciduous azaleas.

LOWER LEFT: A Red Admiral butterfly sunbathing on one of Jeanne's many buddleia (butterfly bush) flowers, early autumn.

CENTER: Jeanne Milanovich in her creek-side Woodinville garden during the spring 1999 Arboretum Foundation garden tour. The next Foundation garden tour is scheduled for May 21, 2000.

UPPER RIGHT: *Syringa vulgaris* 'Sensation', in bloom during The Arboretum Foundation's spring tour. Compound flowers are butterfly and bee favorites, and hummingbirds zoom in on lilacs.

LOWER RIGHT: Blueberries and bird houses near the creek. Birds perch on these roofs before feasting on nearby dogwood fruit.

Jeanne Milanovich remembers the windy day, more than 20 years ago, when her eastside Unit tried to raise money for The Arboretum Foundation.

"We made May Day baskets and sat out in front of Bellevue Square—when they were building it—but the biggest storm just came through and wiped out all our flowers! We were running down the road trying to catch them. People stopped because they felt sorry for us. We did make a little bit of pocket money for the Arboretum—a donation. We laugh about that when we do get together!"

Jeanne and other members of the Foundation's Lee Vernon Clarke Unit also remember weeding sections of the Arboretum near Loderi Valley and the lilacs, which could explain her current lilac fascination.

Back then, Bellevue Square hardly existed, and Jeanne Milanovich squirreled away small Arboretum Foundation plant sale purchases for her dream house and garden that were going up alongside Cottage Lake Creek in Woodinville.

Created by developer Frank Tichey to resemble a colonial village—with open grassland and pasture between each house—the 12 "Homestead" houses are entirely unique, representing separate architectural styles found back East. Jeanne's house is an upper New York-Hudson River-style; one next-door neighbor lives in a Pennsylvania farmhouse replica, while another is in a Federal period home. Half the homes border a creek.

Developer Tichey—who now lives in his own historic house on Whidbey Island—specified that meadows remain open to the Northwest sun. "But I love plants so much, I just collect and collect and collect," Jeanne confesses as she points with pride to her orchard-filled meadow on the non-creek side of her property.

After years of patience, practice (she has no help), and time out for raising children, going golfing, and studying wildlife gardening, Jeanne's garden is winning prizes, plaques, and praise on garden tours. The 1999 Arboretum Foundation tour featured Jeanne's garden and four others, after Jeanne placed in the top tier in the 1998 Pacific Northwest Gardens Contest. The entrants are judged by Arboretum Foundation volunteers, among others, and announced in the *Sunday Seattle Times* just before the Northwest Flower and Garden Show each year.

King County Surface Water Management



supporters often put Jeanne's garden on environmental tours, too, and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife issued her a "Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary" plaque for her expertise and dedication. Jeanne accomplished all of this from humble beginnings at Arboretum classes and with one-gallon Arboretum Foundation plant sale purchases, years ago.

Gardening for the Salmon, Birds, & Beasts

The salmon stream running 150 feet alongside Jeanne's property—and meandering beside six other houses in the Homestead development—was Jeanne's first challenge. Bulldozers were in the process of leveling her land, which, she remembers, "made you just want to get sick." She snagged the bulldozer operator in time to

save two black locusts, in the middle of her back garden, and two willows, alders, and other small shrubs along the water course.

"The black locusts are very dirty and messy, but they're one of my favorites. When it's in bloom it's like wisteria; the white flowers are so fragrant, it's almost like you're in Hawaii." The two black locusts, saved from the bulldozer, now dominate the back garden, along with an 'October Glory' maple.

Later, the task of filling in the slight slope to the water began. Jeanne carved out a border, about 15 to 20 feet deep, for future shrubbery, curving the edges facing the house for a more natural look. Sacrificed in the process was the summer view to the water, but the wildlife, Jeanne reasoned, needed shade and hiding places



Peter Hockaday

Who in the Arboretum?

Joan Hockaday interviewed Jeanne Milanovich for "The Arboretum Foundation Member Who Went Wild." Joan is the author of *The Gardens of San Francisco*, and has written for *Pacific Horticulture*, *The Garden* (RHS), *American Horticulturist*, and *Garden Design*, among other publications. She is a board member of the Northwest Horticultural Society and is on the Bainbridge in Bloom committee. Joan is also a member of The Arboretum Foundation as well as a new member of the editorial board of the *Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin*.

more than she needed sight lines.

Packing the 105-foot border, 20 feet deep, with minuscule Arboretum Foundation sale plants launched Jeanne on the voyage of discovery, and as each shrub grew and flowered and fruited, the garden attracted more wildlife. Eliminating lawn chemicals and sprays, and sheltering the stream soon brought back hearty sockeye, Chinook, and trout, while the overhanging shrubs and trees attracted an impressive array of bird, bat, butterfly, and other life, each with a task to keep the garden in its natural cycle.

"At night, when I open our windows, the fish are really loud; you can hear them thrash," Jean smiles. "And the bats," she pauses, knowing some gardeners wince at the thought, "can eat almost 600 insects an hour! We don't have any mosquitoes because I think the bats eat them all."

In spring, wood ducks perform show-stopping mating dances before squeezing into her sheltered nesting box beside the stream. "They're

continued, page 24

Jeanne Milanovich's Top 10 Wildlife Plants

Alpine currant (*Ribes alpinum*). The currant attracts hummingbirds in spring to its pink flowers; fruit brings more birds later.

Black locust tree (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). Hanging flowers, pods, and bark provide interest year-round for bees and hummingbirds (in spring and summer); insects hide in the bark, attracting downy woodpeckers later in the season.

Butterfly bush (*Buddleia* sp.). Long-lasting flowers attract hummingbirds, butterflies and bees.

Highbush cranberry (*Viburnum edule*). Early flowers attract bees; birds flock to fruit later in the season.

Kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*). In autumn, migrating birds eat the red fruits.

Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*). Early blossoms, then berries, attract a variety of birds.

Mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*). Birds and butterflies are attracted to summer flowers and dried seed capsules.

Red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*). Summer fruits attract birds; deer browse branches.

Red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*). Deer and insect-eating birds are attracted to this edge-of-woodland plant.

Red-twig dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*). Fruits in fall attract wildlife to this moisture-loving native shrub; birds perch on bare scarlet branches in winter.



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gone by May, but each year they come back now.” Large *Magnolia wilsonii* leaves keep the wood duck house in shade. Several other bird species, including thrushes, finches, and bushtits, set up nesting sites on her land, within sound and sight of the now clean, flowing creek.

Keeping all the beasts happy requires an enormous number and variety of plants. This, Jeanne advises, is one of the secrets to attracting the diversity she seeks. Rose bushes and climbers (80), lilacs, buddleias, maples, alders, and ground covers all weave a fabric of unbroken shrubbery and shelter suitable for year-round interest and critter contentment.

In fall, serviceberry, blueberry, grape, high-bush cranberry, dogwoods, and dozens of other plants feed the birds at a time when other gardeners are filling feeders with store-bought feed. “I don’t start feeding [in feeders] until December,” Jeanne says, thus keeping her garden plants as main providers until winter sets in.

Winter storms bring inevitable heartaches. The creek has changed course many times during her tenure, and her son’s waterside bridges are repeatedly swept away. But the plants return, she marvels, after seeming disaster, which is just the natural balance that keeps Jeanne guessing and coming back for more each new season.

Jeanne also keeps fresh water, which she changes regularly, in bird baths all year-round. “I might put a wooden board in the bird bath in winter to keep it from freezing, but I make sure the water is there all the time.” Birds need fresh water to preen and clean flight feathers year-round—a tip found in the Washington Wildlife handout she received with her sanctuary plaque years ago.

Going on Tour

Wildlife gardeners who pass a simple state test receive not only a handsome plaque designating the garden a backyard wildlife sanctuary but packs of information on butterflies, bats, birds, native plants, and more in the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife kit accompanying the honor.

Jeanne worried before the 1999 Arboretum Foundation garden tour about the onslaught of onlookers, but she was pleasantly surprised by the interest, enthusiasm, and respect of those on the spring tour. She also marveled at the range of expertise that she encountered.

“Some people knew even more than I did,” she remembers. Nearby neighbors saw the tour

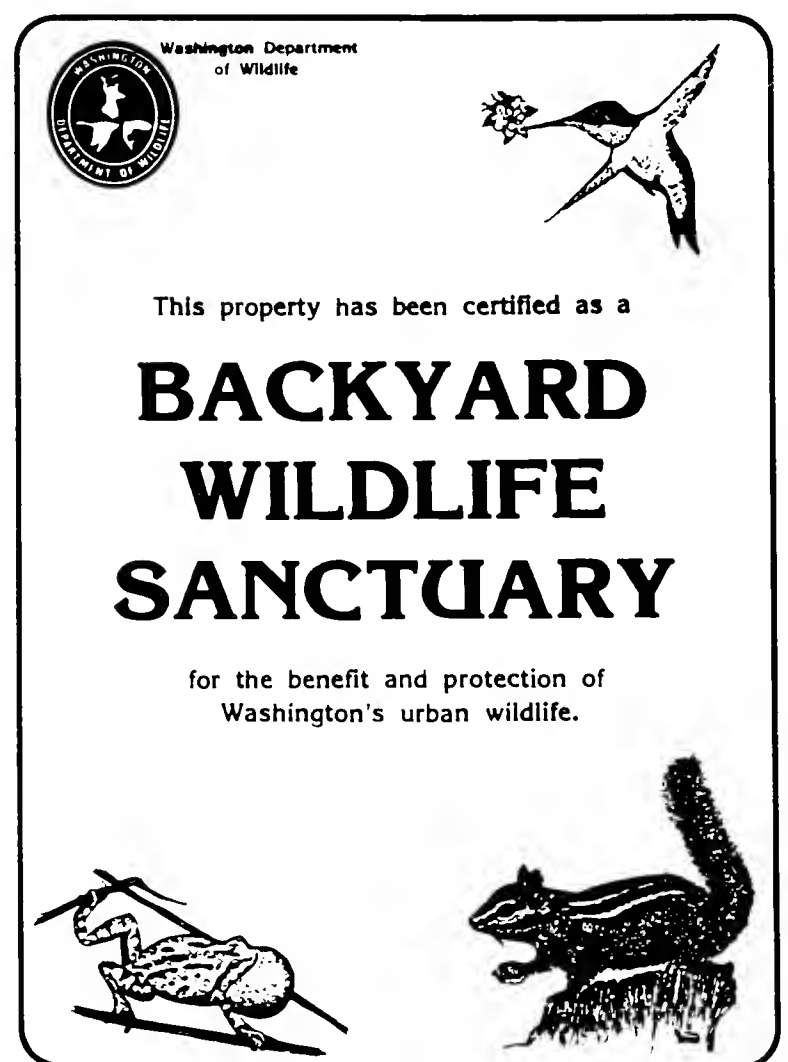
signs and signed up immediately; others came out of curiosity and went away converted. “I was amazed at the number of Microsoft people who stopped in here and said, ‘I just know computers; I don’t know flowers or trees or anything’. It was a kick to share some things with them that they didn’t think of or know.”

Hooking novice gardeners obviously pleases Jeanne, and The Arboretum Foundation garden tour filled the bill for her. The next Arboretum spring tour is scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 2000.

Comparing her passion for gardening with her on-again, off-again love of the game of golf, Jeanne summarizes why most Arboretum Foundation members garden:

“Gardening is always pleasurable. Golfing is very frustrating. One day you’re a champion, and the next day you’re a dodo bird.” No reference to extinct portions of her garden intended?

About the Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program



For information, contact: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program, 16108 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek, WA 98012. Call 425.775.1311. You’ll receive a questionnaire, survey, and information packs on wildlife in Western Washington urban backyard gardens.

In the Washington Park Arboretum

Winter into Spring

Collections & Conservation in the Arboretum

The long-awaited drainage renovation in the *Sorbus* (mountain ash) collection was completed by Precision Earthworks in early November. The Arboretum Foundation was able to provide \$30,850 from their fall 1998 special appeal. The University of Washington, through its gifts, provided the additional \$10,742.00. The Arboretum staff will continue to fill the drainage lines, seed, and add new planting sites for seven new *Sorbus* in spring 2000. No longer will water be sitting in this location.

Visitors are noticing that much of the flowering quince and other vegetation along the north side of the Graham Visitors Center parking lot have been removed. After the City of Seattle refurbishes the tractor shed, new collection plants will be added to bring more color and splash to the area.

Education

The Saplings program received rave reviews from Seattle school administrators. Julie DeBarr reports that 800 K to 5th-graders participated in the Plant Growth and Development inquiry-based program in fall 1999. Even more schools are already signed up for spring 2000. Plans are underway for the Arboretum to participate in a National Science Foundation–University of Washington program with six area schools for development of a middle-school plant science–based program, possibly to begin in fall 2000.

Transitions

The Arboretum lost a valuable leader when Dr. Clement Hamilton left his position as director of the Center for Urban Horticulture in August to become director of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden, Claremont, California. Dr. Hamilton was highly involved with the Arboretum master plan process.

Kirsten Bilodeau, former education assistant, has become education director for the Star Flower Foundation. Kirsten has been instrumen-

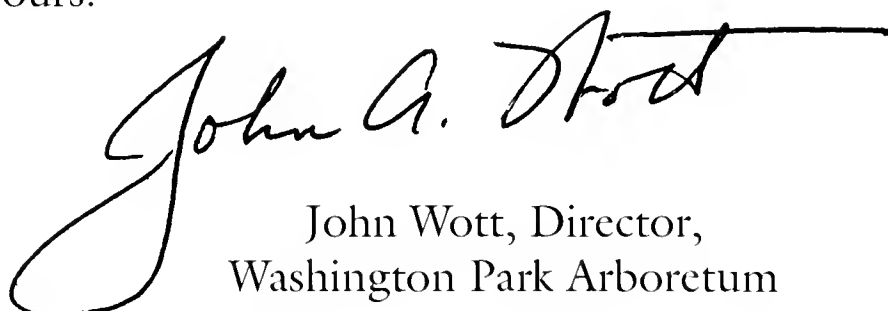


tal in the development of the Saplings Program in the Arboretum. We wish both of these people well.

Learning from Other Botanical Gardens & Arboreta

I was fortunate to visit three botanical gardens in Texas and Louisiana as part of the International Plant Propagators' Society tour in September. The San Antonio Botanical Garden has both botanical, conservatory, and arboretum functions. Like Washington Park Arboretum, the Mercer Arboretum and Botanical Garden in Houston contains an area of wetland that requires it to examine flood issues. Both of these gardens have some plant materials that might be adaptable here in the Northwest.

One of the most interesting visits was the New Orleans Botanical Garden (NOBG), in the central city park, whose changes are the result of a new master plan like the one the Arboretum is working on. Also like the Arboretum, NOBG is a Works Progress Administration–Depression-era garden. Though long neglected, there have been incredible renovation projects there in the last 15 years. The new gardens, additional facilities for education and community affairs, a renovated greenhouse, and major donor contributions are quite evident, the result of a new master plan. NOBG is another example of what can happen when the public understands and supports the modern-day missions of institutions such as ours.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John A. Wott".

John Wott, Director,
Washington Park Arboretum

For Further Information Readers à la Cart

People who use the Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library leave popular and informative gardening books to be re-shelved. Read about the favorites, below.

BY BRIAN THOMPSON

The most dynamic places in the Miller Library are the two carts where books are gathered, before being returned to the shelf. The library staff, volunteers, and frequent patrons know that a few favorite titles spend almost as much time here as in their assigned place in the stacks.

What are these favorites? Like those who help visitors at the Arboretum, the library staff has several reference works relied upon to answer questions or to recommend for further reading. However, our visitors often make their own choices, and while we get some verbal comments on these favorites, the most reliable and consistent feedback is the frequency with which the books are used. Based on observations by the staff, the following are the "People's Choice" selections that Miller Library visitors return to again and again.

The first book most gardeners want is a comprehensive review of horticultural plants. It needs to provide sufficient breadth to include all but the most new or unusual and have enough depth to allow for reliable decisions as to cultural needs and design considerations. In the last couple of years, *The American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants* (NY: DK Publishing, 1997) and the almost identical work produced by the Royal Horticultural Society have quickly become top choices. Both seem to appeal most to the gardener somewhere beyond the beginner's stage who really wants to expand his or her knowledge of the available plant palette.

Those who have reached this next level of sophistication are more likely to grab one of the four volumes of the *New Royal Horticultural Society Dictionary of Gardening* (Anthony Huxley, editor. New York: Stockton Press, 1992). These distinctive, brick-colored tomes never seem to be at home. Instead, a dedicated horticulturist will be deeply engrossed in the almost inexhaustible number of plant entries, the biographies, or the high-quality essays on a large array of horticultural topics.

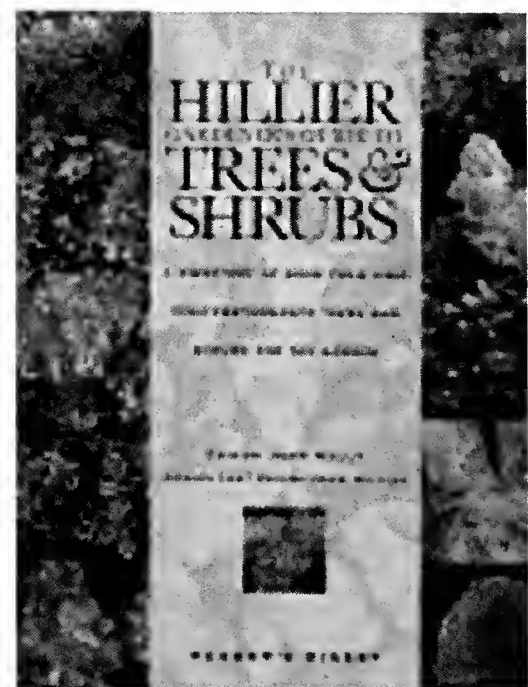
Trees and shrubs form the backbone of most gardens, and many library readers seek books that specialize in the woody plants of the landscape. One that is preferred by students in area community college horticultural programs is the new fifth edition of Michael Dirr's *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing, 1998). Dirr, a professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia, gives the level of detail needed in description, growth habits, and propagation. The appeal of his writing goes beyond this group, however, because he also combines a keen interest in the aesthetics of his subject with clear opinions on the effectiveness, or lack of it, for the plant in question. Complementing and competing for attention with Dirr are:

Bean, W.J., and D.L. Clarke, editors. *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*. 8th edition. New York: St. Martin's, 1981 (plus 1988 supplement).

Hillier's *Manual of Trees & Shrubs*. Winchester, England: Hillier and Sons, 1971.

Jacobson, Arthur Lee. *North American Landscape Trees*. Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press, 1996.

Poor, Janet Meakin, et al. *Plants That Merit Attention: Volume I, Trees. Volume II, Shrubs*. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1984 and 1996, respectively.



Several popular books focus on plants that are especially identified with the Pacific Northwest, whether as desirable natives, detested weeds, or admired exotics that flourish but do not invade in our climate. Appealing to those who want to know who the bad guys are is *Northwest Weeds* by Ronald Taylor (Missoula, MT: Mountain Press Publishing, 1990). Subtitled *The Ugly and Beautiful Villains of Fields, Gardens, and Roadsides*, the clarity of the writing and photographs has made this easily the first choice among the library's books on weeds.

For more favored plants in the Northwest, readers turn to:

Hitchcock, Charles, and Arthur Cronquist. *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1976.

Jacobson, Arthur Lee. *Trees of Seattle*. Seattle: Sasquatch Books, 1990.

Kruckeberg, Arthur R. *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest*. 2nd edition. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1997.

Pojar, Jim, and Andy MacKinnon. *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast*. Vancouver, British Columbia: Lone Pine, 1994.

Some of the books that are crowd-pleasers cover fairly narrow subjects but still stand out. For example, most likely to be chosen from among its shelfmates on pruning is *American Horticultural Society Pruning and Training* (Christopher Brickell and David Joyce. NY: DK Publishing, 1996), while dedicated propagators reach for *Seeds of Woody Plants in North America* (James and Cheryl Young. Portland, OR: Dioscorides Press, 1992).

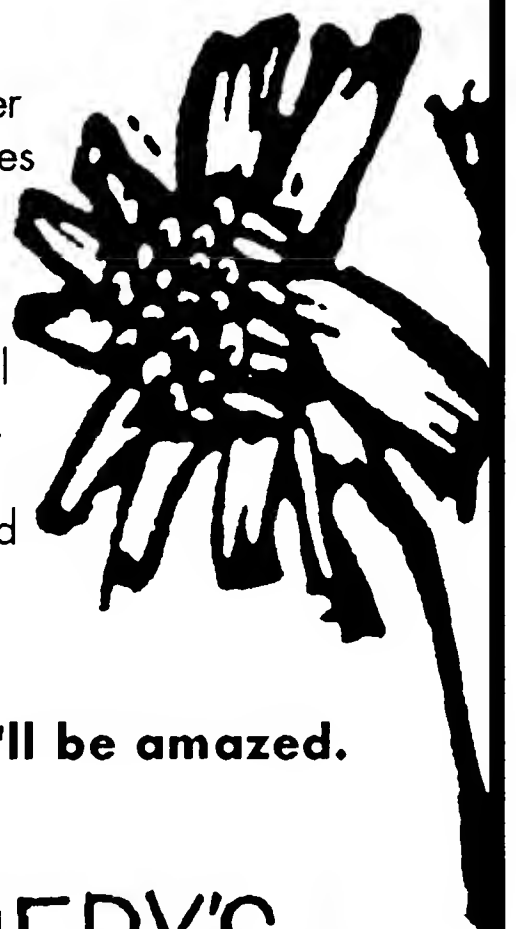
While it is speculative to guess why any of these books are favored, all share qualities such as a thoroughness in coverage of their subject, a writing style and presentation that is both easy to follow yet full of good information, and high-quality diagrams or photographs to support the written descriptions. Of course, librarians look for these assets when critiquing a book, but often we can only be sure of our opinions after the readers have expressed their opinions at the shelving cart.

Brian Thompson is a librarian at the Center for Urban Horticulture's Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library.



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Can You Tell Me...?

Where do the Arboretum Foundation volunteers who staff the reception and information desk go to find the best answers about plants?

BY JEANNINE CURRY

Twelve volunteers—veteran gardeners and guides—take turns staffing the reception information desk at the Graham Visitors Center, and to me, it is the best place to be. Visitors and callers sometimes present us with a challenge, but they also provide us with the opportunity to learn a little more, as long as one knows where to find the answers.

A typical question would be: “Are there any crab apples in the Arboretum?” Are there ever—just about 75 varieties, according to the *Woody Plant Collection in the Washington Park Arboretum* (Washington Park Arboretum. Seattle: University of Washington, 1994). It is a sort of inventory and the most-used reference guide by far. It is not quite current—there are accessions and casualties in the park—but for updates we contact Randall Hitchin, Arboretum Registrar, who has an up-to-date vital statistics section.

We’ll sometimes be given a small branch of holly and be asked: “Are these male or female flowers?” There are a few books dealing with hollies, but nowhere can the answer be found.

Fortunately, one of our volunteers is an expert on the subject and does not mind being called if need be.

We frequently hear: “I need a tree for my front garden, rather narrow but able to provide some shade.” Because tree exposure is so important, it is time to dig into our library—a meager collection of classic publications, on two three-foot shelves within arm’s reach of the reception desk. We have there the *Sunset Western Garden Book* (Menlo Park, CA: Sunset Publishing, 1995), suitable for the good amateur gardener. *The Hillier Manual of Trees and Shrubs* (Hillier Nurseries. UK: Redwood Press, 1991) is a British publication with more details; there is no zoning, but it works for our area.

We also use the venerable *Hortus Third* (Staff of the L.H. Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University. NY: Macmillan), reserved for what I called long-haired botanists but with a long list of colloquial names of plants.

Greer’s Guidebook to Available Rhododendron Species and Hybrids (Harold E. Greer. Eugene, OR: Offshoot Publications, 1982), the

Penny Lewis



Who in the Arboretum?

Jeannine Curry writes for the *Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin* and is a member of its editorial board. Jeannine is a longtime member of The Arboretum Foundation, participating on the Finance Committee and the Senior Advisory Council. She has donated thousands of hours to volunteering in the Graham Visitors Center Gift Shop (left) and behind the reception desk, where she fields questions in person and by telephone. In addition to being an Arboretum Guide, Jeannine is archivist for the Foundation. She was the first recipient of the Brian O. Mulligan Award for volunteerism, and in spring of 1997, was among the first three people to ever be honored with the University of Washington’s Volunteer of the Year award.

bible of rhododendrons, has parentage and rating of the plants and numerous color photos but lacks the latest hybrids.

In addition to books, we also consult a drawer of files accumulated by the volunteers themselves. They contain information on the history of Washington Park Arboretum, trees that perform in different seasons, and parks and gardens in Seattle and the region.

For visitors with their own specifications for the perfect plant, we gratefully acknowledge the use of the variety of books in the Gift Shop:

The Random House Pan Garden Plants Series is a visual delight for answers about shrubs, perennials, trees, and bulbs. These are used for questions by people who buy smallish plants from the Pat Calvert Greenhouse or from the Plant Donations Department.

Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest (Arthur R. Kruckeberg. Seattle & London: University of Washington Press, 1982) is a very thorough reference, and *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast* (Jim Pojar & Andy MacKinnon. Vancouver, British Columbia: Lone Pine, 1994), a take-along book with vinyl cover, is full of color photos.

For very serious business, we consult the four-volume *New Royal Horticultural Society Dictionary of Gardening* (Anthony Huxley, editor. NY: Stockton Press, 1992); there are no color plates, but the descriptions are very thorough.

Sometimes we are asked for nursery resources, such as the person who wanted to know, "Where can I buy unusual irises?" That is when the *Northwest Gardeners' Resource Directory* (Stephanie Feeney. Bellingham, WA: Cedarcroft Press, 1999) is put to use. We'll find either a specialty nursery or the address of the Iris Society. Indeed, most of the plant societies are listed, as well as gardens to visit, volunteer organizations, seed sources, children's gardening, etc.

"What is the name of this plant?" is also a common question. Identification is not always easy, especially when you are handed a plastic bag with two or three leaves either wilted or desiccated. We answer the question only when absolutely certain. When it comes to diseases, we shy away from the topic and refer the inquirer to the Master Gardeners, who are available at the Graham Visitors Center on weekends.



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And then, there are some atypical inquiries that we have investigated:

"Where are Bruce and Brandon Lee buried?" In Lakeview Cemetery, at Volunteer Park.

"Where is Jimi Hendrix's tomb?" In Greenwood Cemetery, in Renton.

More Reading from Behind the Desk

Grace, Julie, general editor. *Ornamental Conifers*. Know Your Garden Series. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1983.

Nehls, Harry B. *Familiar Birds of the Northwest*. Portland, OR: Audubon Society, 1986.

Prione, Pascal P. *Diseases and Pests of Ornamental Plants*. 5th edition. New York Botanical Garden. NY: John Wiley, 1978.

Simpson, Nan Booth. *Great Garden Sources of the Pacific Northwest*. Portland, OR: TACT, 1994.

Washington State University College of Agriculture & Home Economics. *How to Identify Rhododendron and Azalea Problems*. Pullman, WA: Washington State University Cooperative Extension, 1984.

Ciscoe Morris's Favorite WPA Trees

Best Small Trees for the Home Garden

BY JAMES "CISCOE" MORRIS

PHOTOS BY JOY SPURR

Oh, la, la! Washington Park Arboretum has such vast collections that it was hard to pick favorites. But below are my favorite small trees appropriate for the home landscape. These little gems will add elegance and charm to your garden.

Acer palmatum 'Dissectum' (laceleaf Japanese maple). Laceleaf Japanese maples are so common I hesitate to mention them. However, these beautiful trees should never be taken for granted. Gardeners from other parts of the country can only drool over pictures of these lovely trees that we grow so easily. Few other trees can match the elegance, yet the delicate appearance belies their tough constitutions. Once established, most varieties are pest resistant and able to withstand full sun and drought.

Most folks prefer the red ('Atropurpureum') cultivars such as 'Ever Red' and 'Garnet', which add a splash of color all season long, but the standard green laceleaf should not be neglected. It has incredible fall color and is as drought tolerant as a rock. Thin out as many as one-third of the small branches in June, once the leaves are full size, to allow air and light into the tree. This promotes growth inside the canopy, preventing it from becoming an empty shell, and reveals the character of the branching pattern without suddenly exposing tender bark to possible damage from direct sun. One reason I enjoy pruning a century-old Japanese laceleaf maple at Seattle University is because when I'm inside pruning, no one knows I'm there. You would not believe the gossip I have heard on the bench next to the tree.

Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood' (Bloodgood Japanese maple) and 'Shishigashira' (lion's mane maple). Upright Japanese maples have a lot to offer as well. 'Bloodgood' is a drought-tolerant, dependable tree that remains dark red all summer until the leaves turn a stunning scarlet in autumn. The bright red samaras (winged fruit) look incredible when small branches are added to flower arrangements.

The unusual foliage of *A. palmatum* 'Shishigashira' is crinkly and thick, giving the tree a regal appearance. 'Shishigashira' has a peculiar growth characteristic; though the tree only grows

15 feet tall, every year it gets thicker and thicker. Eventually old trees look like samurai wrestlers. The lush foliage turns a rich gold in fall: Oh, la, la! Who can live without a Shishi in your garden? Prune upright maples only to establish a strong structure when planting. Then it's generally best to prune only to keep branches off walks.

Magnolia sieboldii (Oyama maple). Many gardeners consider magnolias the royalty of the garden. If that is the case, then *M. sieboldii* is definitely the queen. A small, spreading tree, *M. sieboldii* rarely exceeds 15 feet tall.

Plant your *Magnolia sieboldii* on an elevated area of the garden or above your patio where people can look up into the nodding, fragrant, porcelain-white flowers to see the rosy-red stamens within. Although bloom is heaviest in spring and fall, *Magnolia sieboldii* is the only deciduous magnolia that flowers intermittently all summer long. The crown jewels are the spectacular crimson fruit clusters that appear after each blossom falls.

Franklinia altamaha (Franklin tree). This tree is a must for the fall garden. The large, three-inch camellia-like white flowers occur at the same time that the autumn leaves turn brilliant red and orange. Franklin trees also have unusual, attractive red bark. Named after Benjamin Franklin, this member of the camellia family once grew wild in Georgia along the Altamaha River.

Provide the same conditions rhododendrons like, but make sure they get the adequate morning sun required to develop good fall color. It is fortunate that the early American plant collector John Bartram collected a few trees, because *Franklinias* have been extinct in the wild since the late 1700s. The sad news is that the *Franklinia* trees on earth today came from the seeds taken from one of Bartram's trees that died in 1914. Many scientists believe that lack of genetic diversity will cause these trees to disappear from the earth within the next 10,000 years. Get one quick, before it's too late.

Clerodendrum trichotomum (harlequin glorybower). Do not plant a *Clerodendrum trichotomum* if you are on a diet. No one can work near this tree without getting an overwhelming desire for a peanut butter sandwich.



Who in the Arboretum?

James "Ciscoe" Morris is horticulturist for Seattle University. A popular lecturer throughout the region, Ciscoe has his own radio show on weekend mornings, on KIRO radio. Ciscoe is a member of the editorial board of the *Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin*. Photo courtesy of KIRO.

TOP: *Embothrium coccineum* (Chilean fire tree) is popular on Arboretum Drive East during late spring. LEFT: The fall color of *Stewartia monadelphica* (orange-bark stewartia), which is from Japan and South Korea. Find mature Arboretum specimens on an Arboretum map in grids 10-4E, 11-6E, 14-8E, and 35-1E. Most are near the first parking lot on the west (left) as you enter from Lake Washington Boulevard onto Arboretum Drive East, from the south. RIGHT: *Acer palmatum* cultivars can be found throughout the Arboretum.

That's because the leaves smell strongly of peanut butter when brushed.

It's not the peanut butter smell, however, that makes this tree so attractive. The late summer white flowers are so intensely fragrant they can be smelled from blocks away. Although the leaves do not get fall color, the turquoise berries backed by bright red calyces put on a great fall display. *Clerodendrum trichotomum* is most attractive trained as a small tree, but it must have a warm, sunny location. In shade, these trees tend to become suckering shrubs. Expect to get to know your neighbors because they will be knocking on the door to find out where they can get such a deliciously fragrant tree (or perhaps a peanut butter sandwich).

Stewartia pseudocamellia (Japanese stewartia) and *S. monadelphica* (orange-bark stewartia). Stewartias are trees for all seasons. My two favorites are both from Japan. Stewartia trees are members of the tea or camellia family, and the small, silky white, yellow-centered flowers bear a family resemblance. The fall leaves are real show stoppers, turning bright orange to deep burgundy and everything in between.

The best effect of all is saved for winter. The pseudocamellia has wonderful flaky bark that gives the trunk an attractive mottled appearance. Monadelphica has bright cinnamon-orange bark that cheers even the dreariest of winter days. Both species grow tall, but they stay narrow enough to make them appropriate for most small gardens. Stewartias do best in morning sun (not baking sun) and moisture-retentive soil, but they will thrive and bloom in shade, as well.

Acer grosseri (Grosser's stripebark maple). Stripebark maples are a group of trees that should be used more in home gardens. You can see some of the finest specimens in the country in the Washington Park Arboretum.

There is something mystical about the snakelike bark, causing some to believe they attract magical beings to the garden. Although rare in nurseries, stripebark maples are becoming available throughout the Seattle area, and *Acer grosseri* is one of the most beautiful. It has greenish bark with white fissures. In autumn, the leaves turn a beautiful clear yellow. Usually a small tree, grosseri can sometimes reach 35 feet, but it will take many years. Stripebark maples prefer a woodsy habitat with protection from the baking sun. Since they are susceptible to bark canker diseases, check care-

fully when choosing and avoid trees with dark spots or sunken areas on the bark. Also use caution to prevent damaging the bark when planting. It's worth the risk to try one because few trees can match the mystique and beauty of a stripebark maple.

Acer griseum (Chinese paperbark maple). According to legend, the cinnamon peeling bark of this remarkable small tree was used as paper in ancient China, hence the common name. It's hard to believe that anyone could get themselves to tear off such beautiful bark. At the nursery, pick the tree with the most attractive flaking qualities. They either got it, or they ain't. Some trees are duds from the start and will never develop the attractive papery bark. The trifoliate leaves turn gorgeous red and scarlet in autumn.

These small trees can take full sun or semi-shade, but must have well-drained soil. You can admire an outstanding specimen in the Washington Park Arboretum Japanese Garden.

Embothrium coccineum (Chilean fire tree). Wear your sunglasses when you drive through the Arboretum in May. You'll need them when you see a 25-foot-tall tree ablaze in bright red, tubular flowers, swarming with dive-bombing hummingbirds. This is the *Embothrium coccineum* or the Chilean fire tree.

Plant one, and once it blooms, you will have a garden full of hummingbirds. Make sure there are other plants in bloom when the *Embothrium* is finished, and you'll have these little acrobats performing their gravity-defying feats all summer long.

Although extremely rare in the past, Chilean fire trees are available at specialty nurseries. They are difficult in pots, so only small ones are available. But don't worry; these fast growing, narrow trees usually bloom within the first five years after planting. And there's no need to fertilize or coddle this plant. Just give your *Embothrium* a sunny location with good drainage, and Hanna and Harry Hummingbird will keep you entertained for years to come.

I've suggested some really incredible trees that are musts for the home garden. But don't take my word for it. Go check out some of the most beautiful specimens in the country, in our own Washington Park Arboretum.

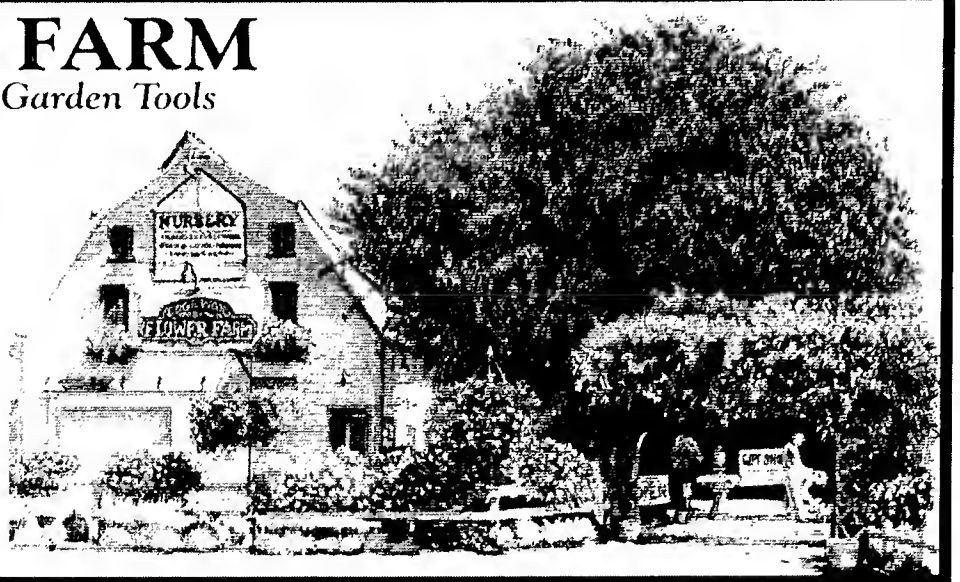
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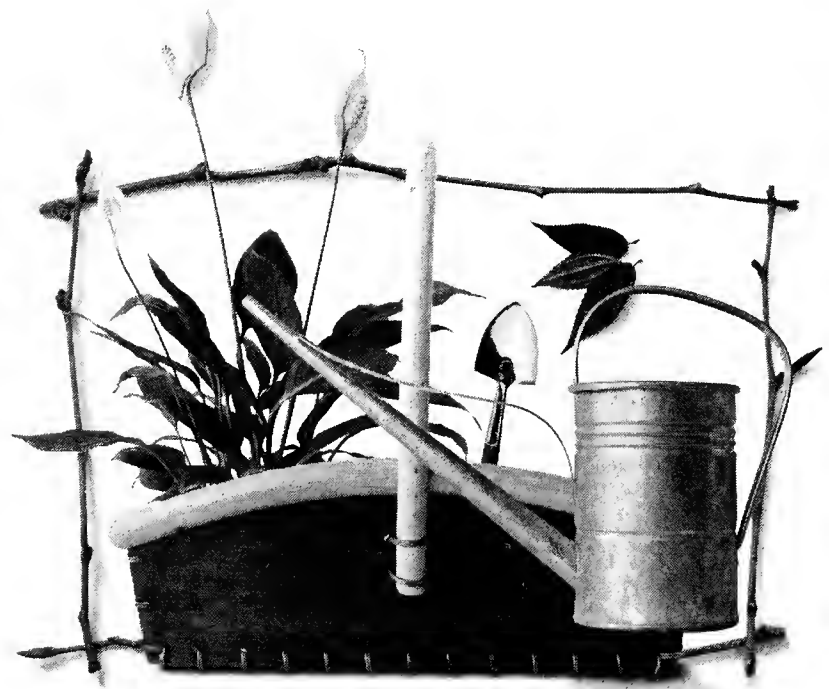


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